

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of communicating information over a network, comprising:
 - connecting a participant web browser to a server to obtain the location of
 - 5 configuration information and a unique session identifier for the information;
 - loading a participant software plugin and retrieving a compound document from the location specified in the configuration information; and
 - connecting to a portal for gathering the information, wherein
 - the portal directs the participant software plugin to an appropriate server for presentation
 - 10 of the information and the participant participates in the presentation or plays back a recorded presentation.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the information is a presentation for a course or meeting.
3. A system for communication information over a network, comprising:
 - a web browser connecting to a server to obtain the location of configuration
 - information and a unique session identifier for the information, the web browser loading
 - a participant software plugin and retrieving a compound document from the location
 - 20 specified in the configuration information; and
 - system software connecting to a portal for gathering the information, wherein
 - the portal directs the participant software plugin to an appropriate server for presentation
 - of the information and the participant participates in the presentation or plays back a recorded presentation.